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**RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION**

**for Application No. 10/791,576**

**Attorney Docket No. 133474**

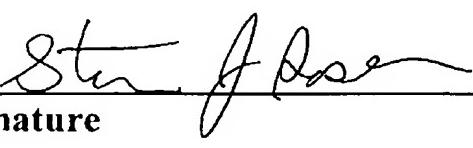
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**Steven J. Rosen**

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## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: S. R. Mannava et al. )  
                                       )  
Serial No: 10/791,576             ) Group Art Unit: 1725  
                                       )  
Filed: 03/02/2004                 ) Examiner:  
                                       ) Samuel M. Heinrich  
For: LOWER FLUENCE BOUNDARY     )  
        OBLIQUE LASER SHOCK PEENING )

Commissioner for Patents  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION**

In response to the Office Action mailed July 17, 2006,  
please consider the following amendments and remarks:

**Claim Rejections - 35 USC §103(a)**

1. The Examiner's rejection of Claims 1-24 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over W095/25821 to Dulaney, in view of USPN 6,200,689 to Ferrigno et al., has been studied and the Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's reasons for combining the references or applying them to the Claims in the present Application. The Applicants respectfully submit that nothing in the cited references, either taken alone or in combination, teach Claim 1, in particular, "laser shock peening a border area of the surface between the first area and a non-laser shock peened area of the article with at least one first low fluence oblique laser beam that is oblique with respect to the surface."

Contrary to the Examiner's conclusion, Dulaney does not disclose the use of a laser beam that is oblique with respect to the surface. Dulaney does not disclose angled beams.